

For Our Patriots

By
*U.S. Representative
Marilyn Musgrave*



The freedom America enjoys has come from the sacrifices of our nation's patriots who answer liberty's call to arms and defeat threats of tyranny.

As a Representative in Congress, with several family members who served in the military, I have tried to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Recently, Congress passed, and I voted for, the National Defense Authorization Act, which corrects a disparity that reduces retirement benefits for veterans with service related injuries proportional to the amount of their disability payments.

The legislation establishes a payment program that will compensate disabled military retirees who have at least 20 years of service with their full retirement benefits and provide disability compensation. Seriously injured vets will receive both payments concurrently.

Beginning in January, 2004, \$28 billion dollars will be paid in benefits

over the next ten years. In addition, more veterans than ever before will be provided this concurrent receipt, including those who served in the National Guard and reserves.

During a recent ceremony in Greeley, I had the privilege of presenting 49 veterans with their Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Originally presented after the armistice that ended the Korean conflict, these former soldiers had not yet received their medals because, at the time, members of the U.S. armed forces could not wear medals given by a foreign country.

Considered "the forgotten war," the sacrifices witnessed in Korea are frequently overlooked. But those sacrifices more than 50 years ago warrant recognition to this day.

As we fight the current War On Terrorism, let us not forget the valor of all of America's patriots.

*You can call Rep. Musgrave's
Loveland office at 663-3536. ■*